

Navigating the Marketplace as a Young Adult

Frequently Asked Questions

Young adults now have more health coverage options than ever before, and many will qualify for financial help to lower the cost of coverage.

Make sure that you have all the information you need to choose the health plan that's right for you. Below are the answers to common questions that young adults face when signing up for coverage.

How long can I stay on my parents' health plan?

If your parents are buying coverage through the Marketplace and are not eligible for tax credits

If your parents are buying a Marketplace plan without tax credits, you can stay on that coverage until age 26 whether you are claimed as a dependent or not.

If your parents are buying coverage through the Marketplace and will be receiving tax credits

If your parents are receiving tax credits to help pay for their Marketplace plan, you must be claimed as a dependent on their taxes in order to be included on that coverage.

If your parents have coverage through work or from somewhere other than the Marketplace

If your parents have coverage through their employer or directly from an insurance company that covers family members, you may be able to stay on their health plan until you are 26 years old, even if your parents do not claim you as a dependent for tax purposes.

You should confirm that your parents' plan covers family members before you make a decision.

If you are a veteran

If you are a veteran, Illinois law requires certain health plans to allow veterans to stay on their parents' coverage until age 30.

I'm under 26 and married. Am I able to stay on my parents' plan?

Being married does not affect your eligibility to be covered under your parents' plan. The same rules from the previous question apply.

Your parents' plan is not required to cover your spouse or your child.

I'm under 26, but want to get off my parents' plan. Am I able to sign up for my own coverage through the Marketplace?

Yes, you are still able to sign up for coverage through the Marketplace but the financial help available to you will vary based upon your tax status.

- **If your parents claim you as a dependent:** Their income will be used to determine your eligibility for financial help.
- **If your parents do NOT claim you as a dependent:** Your parents' income will not be used to determine the financial help available.

Also, keep in mind that you are not eligible for financial help if your employer offers health coverage that meets the basic value and affordability standards.

I'm enrolled in college out-of-state. Do I sign up for coverage in Illinois or the state I go to school in?

You have the option to sign up for coverage in either your home state or the state where you go to school. It is important to compare your options in both states before you make a final decision. Different states have different rules for Medicaid eligibility, which might affect the amount of financial help you receive.

It is also important to remember that the doctors covered by your plan may be limited outside the state where you purchased the plan. Some plans have national provider networks that cover doctors or hospitals in multiple states. Think about where you will most often need medical services before you choose.

Is there financial help available for me if I want to buy my own plan?

When you use the Marketplace to buy health coverage, you can apply for financial help to lower the cost of coverage. Help from the federal government may be available for people who make up to \$45,960 as an individual.

Depending on your income and where you live, you may also qualify for Medicaid, which means you will likely only have to pay a small amount for your health care and medical services, including when you get sick or go to the doctor.

Can I buy a catastrophic plan?

Yes, catastrophic plans are available for Illinois residents under 30 years old. These plans may have the lowest monthly premiums, but require the highest level of out-of-pocket costs for deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance.

Marketplace catastrophic plans cover three annual primary care visits and preventive services at no cost.

Financial help is not available for Marketplace catastrophic plans. Make sure to look at all of your options and the financial help available to you in order to make the best decision.

What happens if I don't want any coverage?

If you don't have coverage you may have to pay a penalty. For 2014, the penalty is \$95 or 1% of your taxable income. However, if you make less than \$10,000 per year and don't have to file income taxes, the penalty does not apply to you.